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SUBJECT: Notes on Training in the Communist Party

The attached short sketch of the general and more overt aspects of training in the Communist Party has been prepared as background information. It is suggested that, for the purposes of intelligence collection, attention be focused upon the ideological indoctrination schools on the regional and national levels, as well as upon those concerned with specialized training; i.e., Party schools for Party organizers, agitators, propagandists, saboteurs, etc. For these and for regional and national ideological schools, the following items are of particular interest:

- a. name and location of school
- b. type of instruction (curriculum and methods)
- c. duration and scope of courses
- d. student selection
- e. security measures
- f. identities of teachers and students
- g. assignments of students after completion of course.

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~~SECRET~~NOTES ON TRAINING IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY

The training of a member of the Communist Party is a continuous process, beginning from the time he is first attracted to the Party and intensified and formalized from the moment of his joining. It is accomplished informally by the example set for him by the older members of his organization, by the practices of the party, the activities in which he engages as a member, and by the enveloping propaganda carried with the membership status. It is also formalized in lectures, discussion groups, and Party schools. On every level of the Party a "responsible" or secretary for education and training supervises the educational program. Full-fledged schools are set up on all levels, from the cell (except when it is too small) to the national organization.

The purpose of this paper is to outline briefly the four levels of party training (cell, district, region, national), their curricula, organizational significance, and methods of student selection.

ELEMENTARY INDOCTRINATION

When they exist, schools at the cell level are usually loosely organized, informal affairs. Small cells, of course, have no schools, and in cities, district or municipal schools often take the place of cell schools. Subjects taught by the responsible for education in the cell, and discussed by the new members serve the cell's elementary indoctrination aim. They consist of brief historical sketches of Communism and the Party and of an introduction to Communist ideology. This basic indoctrination is mandatory for each recruit during his period of probationary membership. All members are supposed to attend study and discussion groups conducted in their cell and to devote a few hours a week to the study of ideology and Party history. Elementary texts are distributed free, or for a small charge. Most cells maintain libraries stocked with standard Communist texts, supplied them by superior Party organizations.

Some of the subjects covered in the elementary course given by the Sections (i.e., district organizations) of CP Belgium in 1945 follow:

- a. Principles of socialist economy: the socialist state; the "dictatorship of the proletariat" (equals "democracy for the people.")
- b. The struggle of the Communist Party for the renovation of the country: the struggle to extirpate all germs of fascism; social and political reforms demanded.
- c. Working class solidarity.
- d. The CP Belgium and "Democratic Concentration" (United front campaign against reactionaries and fascists).
- e. The work of the Party in the labor syndicates: the fight for labor unity in Belgium; the CP and the FGFB (the Party labor federation) -- organization and function of the FGFB; the place of Communists in the labor unions (includes extracts from Lenin's "The Infantile Malady of Leftism in Communism").
- f. Organization and function of the party: study of the party statutes outlining organization; consideration of the work of the Party in the communes; an outline of the party press and agitation programs and of the execution of agitprop policies.

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g. The work of Party organizations in the factories.

It is interesting to note that members and functionaries (!) of cell, section, and federation levels in Brussels attend these elementary courses: that is, the basic course is held on all three levels. Undoubtedly, federation functionaries attend the elementary course as a "refresher" rather than as an introduction to Communist ideology.

Elementary courses conducted by district organizations of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) in the Soviet zone of Germany cover material that is similar to that taught in the Belgian schools. The one-week SED course includes basic scientific socialism and historical materialism, with an emphasis on the application of Marxist formulae to current German and international conditions; public speaking, and techniques of organizing women and factory-workers. Members who have successfully completed this course may be nominated for a further two-week course. The material of the basic course is studied in more detail, and a brief study of the history of the Soviet Union and the history of the trade-union movement are added. Two or three of the better students in each course are named by the district secretary as candidates for further study at the regional schools.

In the regional schools of the German Socialist Unity Party, the first attempt is made to elaborate and specialize the training given to particular groups -- Party administration, financial practice, literary and journalistic work, and general management. Standard Communist texts are read, analyzed, and discussed; instruction is given in the methods of organizing workers' councils in factories, tactical operations in trade unions, etc.

The Milan and Bologna branches of the Central Cadre School of CP Italy train students selected from the districts, specializing in techniques of propaganda and agitation. These regional branches, as well as the Central School at Rome, do not neglect ideological education, which is a constant concern of schools at all levels; however, it is in the regional schools that serious training in methods and practices is first given. Below the regional level, the emphasis appears to be on thorough grounding in Marxist ideology.

On recommendation by regional committees, particularly apt and ideologically secure members are sent on to national schools. Presumably, those selected have had some years' experience in party work and probably most of them hold district or regional positions.

ADVANCED TRAINING

Students at the national schools attend on a full-time basis. Courses vary in length, but usually last for at least three months. Entrance requirements are usually high, graduation from a regional school being a standard prerequisite. In addition to more advanced courses in Communist ideology, the national schools stress practical work in order to prepare students for the realities of party administration. At the Karl Marx School at Liebenwalde, the top national school operated by the Socialist Unity Party, for example, all students were given three weeks' leave in order to participate in the electoral campaign preceding the elections in the Soviet zone. The students worked as electoral organizers, speakers, publicity managers, etc.

The six months' course at the Karl Marx School offered instruction in standard ideology, the strategy and tactics of the class struggle, history of Russian and European labor movements, trade union problems, problems of Soviet Russia, and Russian foreign policy. This curriculum was taught by permanent staff members. Problems bearing on current political and economic conditions in Germany and the world were covered, for the most

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part, by visiting lecturers. Delicate issues, such as Socialist Party policies in the western zones (where the Communists and the Socialists are not exactly in agreement) and Soviet policies in Germany were avoided. Upon graduation, the students were rated and sent out to fill administrative posts in the civil government of the Soviet zone, in the SED or in the Communist Party organization in the western zones.

The Liebenwalde school has recently undertaken a two-year course, which will give students a very thorough grounding in ideology and in practical work. The school will become, in effect, a Party university with faculties in Philosophy, History, Economics and Government. The study of Russian, English or French is required. The first half-year is devoted to general orientation in the four main faculties; after that, the student must concentrate on one of them. The Liebenwalde study plan includes under Philosophy:

- a. introduction to Marxism;
- b. dialectics;
- c. philosophical and historical materialism.

The Economics faculty features lectures on:

- a. capital, production, prices;
- b. state-monopolistic war capitalism;
- c. features of German imperialism.

The field of History stresses:

- a. the industrial revolution in England;
- b. the 1848 revolution in Germany;
- c. the Paris commune;
- d. the two world wars;
- e. history of the German labor movement
- f. history of Russia

Theoretical and practical problems include the study of classes and the class struggle, Marxist teachings on the state, policies of the Socialist Unity Party, and questions concerning unions, youth, women, farmers, culture, schools, and education in general. General themes embrace rhetoric, style, and the techniques of "spiritual" work.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

In addition to schools for its members, the Party also sponsors courses for workers, women, cultural front leaders, etc. It also operates specialist schools for the training of propagandists, saboteurs, intelligence agents, and labor organizers. It is impossible at this time to consider those schools concerned with the teaching of illegal techniques, but the curricula of a youth-leaders' school and of a school for labor organizers follow, in order to illustrate the ways in which the Party shifts its emphasis from one field of interest to another.

A Youth School.

Subjects taught by a national training school for youth leaders of CP Austria at Kaltenleutgeben (near Vienna, in the Soviet zone) include the following:

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- a. Communist ideology;
- b. General history;
- c. History of the USSR; Soviet economy, army, culture;
- d. Origins, organization, and statutes of CP Austria;
- e. Austrian history and economics;
- f. Austrian domestic and foreign state policy;
- g. Propaganda and strike tactics;
- h. Party press work;
- i. Trade union work;
- j. Austrian youth organizations, including the Free Austrian Youth (the party auxiliary, FOJ);
- k. Techniques of youth lectures;
- l. Dialectical methods.

The lectures at this school were given by top party youth and educational leaders. Most of the students were members of the FOJ, and the daily schedule extended from 0815 to 1700 hours, with an additional two hours late in the evening for debates, the showing of films, etc.

According to the unevaluated report from which the above outline was drawn, a small number of graduates of the school were chosen from each class to go on to more advanced study in the Soviet Union.

A School for Labor Organizers

The following lectures were given in a Berlin school for shop delegates from 23 October to 8 November 1945:

- a. Historical situation of the working class and the basic tasks of the party;
- b. Hitlerism, Germany's war guilt, and the collective responsibility of the German people;
- c. Prussian German imperialism;
- d. The Potsdam Conference: its economic provisions; reparations;
- e. The German economic situation: the fight against monopolistic entrepreneurs;
- f. Trade unions questions:
 1. development of unions
 2. tasks of the unions
- g. Problems of factory councils;
- h. Social legislation and the youth problem;
- i. Women in industry: retraining, vocational advice; women in unions and their protection;
- j. The role of the workers and the trade unions in the Soviet Union;
- k. Role of the Communists in the factory.

In view of the concentration of the above lectures on general historical and theoretical problems, it is probable that the course was primarily designed to give background to the students. It may safely be assumed that they later progressed to other courses of a more practical nature.

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